

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCI-06 NSF-04 ACDA-19 SP-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /097 W

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R 071921Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7022

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AEC GERMANTOWN 1197

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EEC, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

1. IN THE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY DURING THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON JUNE 6, THE EC COMMISSION'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY, FERNAND SPAAK, RAISED TWO QUESTIONS REGARDING URANIUM ENRICHMENT. HE NOTED THE RECENT INCREASE IN ORDERS THROUGH THE EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY TO THE USAEC FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES AND SAID THAT THE PRESENT US CEILING (35,000 MWE) ON THE PROVISION OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO EURATOM WOULD SOON BE EXCEEDED. HE SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD SOON BE APPROACHING USAEC TO SEEK AN INCREASE IN THE CEILING. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE NOTED THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 54 OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT, WHICH PERMIT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE GRANTED INCREASES IN ENRICHMENT CEILINGS WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF AMENDING LEGISLATION. HE INQUIRED WHETHER EURATOM COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNDER THESE PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF SEEKING LEGISLATION. HE NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE COMPLICATES THE MATTER BECAUSE OF THE NECESSITY TO MOVE QUICKLY WITH STEPS TO SEEK A CEILING

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INCREASE.

2. SPAAK ALSO NOTED US UTILITIES HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE CONTEMPLATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES IN EUROPE TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR REACTORS IN THE US. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION REGARDING ANY RESTRICTIONS OR CONTROLS ON THE IMPORT OF ENRICHED URANIUM INTO THE UNITED STATES.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN RESPONDED TO SPAAK THAT WE WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON BOTH THESE POINTS. GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED ON (A) INCREASING THE CEILING FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES AND (B) US IMPORT POLICY ON ENRICHED URANIUM. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, URANIUM, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS, DIRECTOR GENERAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU03921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740146-1155
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740666/aaaacepm.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: URANIUM ENRICHMENT
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, US, EEC, AEC, EURATOM, (SPAAK, FERNAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005